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means for generating a certificate of authenticity having a serialized hologram that is identical to a
serialized hologram that is then permanently affixed to the collectible as proof of verification; and
means for storing all information at said central computer for reference at a future time.

These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with the Examiner's position. These amendments introduce no new matter.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Originally filed claims 1-4 and newly added claims 5-29 are pending with entry of this amendment

35 U.S.C. §102.

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Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious in light of Brogger. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Invention

In accordance with the invention, the invention in various embodiments teaches one or more of the following: the computerized matching of signatures, selecting and/or transmitting information indicating a type of collectable surface on which a suspected signature is inscribed; selecting and/or transmitting information which permits selection of a signer; comparing a transmitted scanned image of a suspected signature with a selected set of stored signatures to determine the authenticity of the suspected signature; selection of a set of stored signatures, to verify against, based on criteria selected by the user or transmitted by the user to permit automatic selection; the existence of an on-line collection of sets of stored (authentic reference) signatures; upon verification of a signature, issuing a Certificate of Authenticity, if desired; storing the verification and certificate information for future use.

United States Patent N° 6309690 (Brogger)

Brogger discusses identifying an item, by the addition of a unique mark that can be applied to various surfaces, including curved surfaces. Brogger does not teach or mention the computerized matching of signatures. Additionally Brogger actually directs away from this area by teaching the use of the unique mark as the primary identifying item and comparison of the mark with a recorded image of the mark itself, with out

regard to the actual veracity of the signature. Further Brogger does not contemplate comparison of their own mark with anything but itself, thus any concept of comparison with a separate selected set of stored signatures is not discussed in Brogger.

Response

With respect to claims 1-4, Brogger does not suggest or teach any of the following:

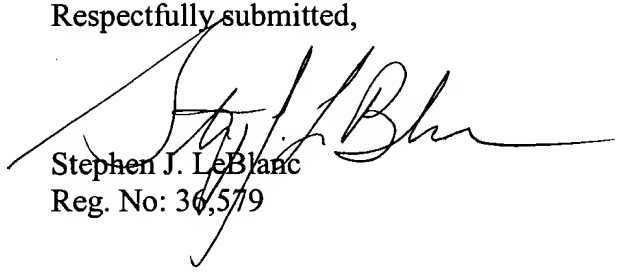
- The computerized matching of signatures
- Selecting or, transmitting information which permits the automatic selection of, the type of collectable surface on which the suspected signature is inscribed. Additionally selecting or, transmitting information which permits the automatic selection of, the signer
- Comparing the (transmitted) scanned image of the suspected signature with a selected set of stored (authentic reference) signatures to determine the authenticity of the suspected signature.
- Selection of the set of stored signatures, to verify against, based on criteria selected by the user or transmitted by the user to permit automatic selection.
- The existence of an on-line collection of sets of stored (authentic reference) signatures.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 769-3508.

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Respectfully submitted,


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